

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00108 01 OF 02 272320Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00
AGRE-00 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 STR-07 CTME-00 /063 W
-----055920 272346Z /64

R 271950Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2049
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HALIFAX 0108

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS CA
SUBJECT: CANADA'S ATLANTIC FISHERIES: FEARS FOR THE
FUTURE

BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH IT WAS CERTAINLY NEEDED IN
ORDER TO ASSURE A CONTINUED SUPPLY OF FISH FOR CANADIAN
FISHERMEN, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADA'S 200-MILE FISHING
ZONE WAS BY NO MEANS A PANACEA FOR THE FISHING INDUSTRY.
FISHERMEN ARE BECOMING APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE LOSS OF THE
U S MARKET AS THE U S FISHING INDUSTRY, WITH ITS OWN
200-MILE FISHING ZONE, BECOMES INCREASINGLY SELF-
SUFFICIENT. TO FIND NEW MARKETS ABROAD, CANADIAN FISH
EXPORTERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FISH EXPORTERS (CAFE).

ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE
FRESH FISH MARKET IN NEW ENGLAND MAY BE AFFECTED BY
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES WHICH MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE USG
AS A RESULT OF SUBSIDIES GRANTED BY THE GOC TO CANADIAN
FISHERMEN SINCE 1974. ALSO, NOVA SCOTIA FISHERMEN ARE
WORRYING ABOUT THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF THEIR SCALLOP
FISHERY IN THE EVENT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THE USG AND THE GOC RESULT IN THE LOSS TO CANADA OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HALIFA 00108 01 OF 02 272320Z

GEORGES BANK. END SUMMARY.

1. IF ANYONE BELIEVES THAT, WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE 200-MILE OFFSHORE FISHING ZONE ON JANUARY 1, 1977,
ALL THE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THE CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY
WERE ON THE WAY TO BEING SOLVED, HE IS MISTAKEN. FOR
CANADIAN FISHERMEN AND FISH PROCESSORS, THE SETTING-UP

OF A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE PROVIDED ASSURANCE THAT, WITH CAREFUL MANAGEMENT, THEIR FUTURE SUPPLY OF FISH WAS NO LONGER IN DOUBT. BUT IN ORDER TO SELL FISH, MERELY HAVING AN ASSURED SUPPLY BUTTERS NO PARSNIPS. FOR THE PAYOFF, AN EFFECTIVE DEMAND IS ALSO REQUIRED-- AND THIS IS WHAT IS GIVING THE CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY A CASE OF PREMONITORY JITTERS.

2. THE HOPES AND FEARS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY ARE FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN PAPERS THROUGHOUT ATLANTIC CANADA. IN RECENT WEEKS THOSE FRONT PAGES HAVE CARRIED NUMEROUS ARTICLES REPORTING ON THE EXPANSION OF THE U S FISHING INDUSTRY. IF THESE ARTICLES ARE TO BE BELIEVED, THE DECLARATION OF A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE OFF THE EAST COAST U S HAS CAUSED A NEW SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM AND EXPANSION IN NEW ENGLAND FISHING CENTERS. SCORES OF NEW FISHING VESSELS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. YOUNG AMERICAN SEAMEN ARE ENTERING THE INDUSTRY IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS. THERE IS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, A GROWING BELIEF THAT FISHING CAN BE PROFITABLE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL IN A FEW YEARS APPROACH SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FISHING.

3. THE UNITED STATES MARKET CURRENTLY TAKES ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF CANADA'S FISH EXPORTS (BY VALUE). THE LOSS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 HALIFA 00108 01 OF 02 272320Z

OF THIS MARKET, WHICH SOME PREDICT WILL BECOME NOTICE-ABLE ABOUT THREE YEARS FROM NOW, SEEMS TO BE FAIRLY WIDELY CONCEDED. NEW MARKETS ABROAD WILL BE NEEDED, AND A NEW ORGANIZATION TO FIND AND EXPLOIT THOSE MARKETS IS IN THE PROCESS OF FORMATION. THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FISH EXPORTERS (CAFE) WILL BE A SISTER ORGANIZATION TO THE FISHERIES COUNCIL AND IS EXPECTED TO BE FORMALLY ALUNCHED IN A MONTH OR TWO. CAFE WILL ATTEMPT A CONSOLIDATED MARKETING EFFORT ON BEHALF OF A COUPLE OF HUNDRED FISH EXPORTING COMPANIES WHICH NOW COMPETE HAPHAZARDLY AND COMPETITIVELY IN MARKETING THEIR PRODUCTS ABROAD. IN A PARALLEL MOVE, THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE IS STUDYING A PROPOSAL TO APPOINT PEOPLE FROM THE FISHING INDUSTRY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00108 02 OF 02 272325Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00
AGRE-00 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 STR-07 CTME-00 /063 W
-----055970 272345Z /64

R 272005Z FEB 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2050
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HALIFAX 0108

AS FISHERIES ATTACHES AT CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR
OFFICES ABROAD.

4. WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE GREATER PART OF FOREIGN
FISHING FLEETS FROM THE 200-MILE FISHING ZONES OF BOTH
CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, THE SALE OF FISH ABROAD
BY CANADA WOULD SEEM AT FIRST GLANCE TO BE EASY.
PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, ARE FORESEEN. INCREASING COMPETITION
FROM THE UNITED STATES IS EXPECTED AND CONCERN ABOUT THE
ABILITY OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO PAY FOR FISH
IMPORTS HAS BEEN EXPRESSED. SERIOUS THOUGHT IS BEING
GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF BARTER ARRANGEMENTS (E.G.,
ROMANIAN OIL FOR CANADIAN FISH).

5. ANOTHER AREA OF CURRENT CONCERN WITHIN THE CANADIAN
FISHING INDUSTRY IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE USG IS ON
THE VERGE OF IMPOSING COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON SOME
CANADIAN FISH EXPORTS BECAUSE OF GOC SUBSIDIES TO OVER-
COME FISHING INDUSTRY LOSSES SUFFERED IN PAST THREE YEARS.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CANADIAN CONSULAR OFFICERS
IN BOSTON SAY THE US MARKET FOR FRESH, NOT FROZEN, FISH
IS IN DANGER. THEY SAY SUPPORT WITHIN THE US FISHING
INDUSTRY FOR THE DUTIES IS SPLIT, WITH FISHERMEN'S
ASSOCIATIONS IN FAVOR OF THEM AND MOST LARGE PROCESSORS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HALIFA 00108 02 OF 02 272325Z

OPPOSED TO THE IDEA.

6. AMONG THE FISHERMEN OF NOVA SCOTIA'S SOUTHWESTERN
COAST, NO FEAR FOR THE FUTURE IS MORE INTENSE THAN
THAT CANADA MAY BE THE LOSER IN THE DISPUTE WITH
THE UNITED STATES OVER THE OWNERSHIP OF GEORGES BANK.
THE SCALLOP FISHERY OF GEORGES BANK IS ATLANTIC CANADAS

RICHEST FISHERY. LOSS OF ACCESS TO IT WOULD BE A SEVERE BLOW THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY AND ALMOST THE RUINATION OF SUCH NOVA SCOTIA FISHING TOWNS AS DIGBY AND YARMOUTH.

7. PEI PREMIER ALEX CAMPBELL POINTED OUT AT RECENT FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING IN OTTAWA THAT CANADA IS THIRD LARGEST FISH EXPORTER, BEHIND JAPAN AND NORWAY. IT IS POSSIBLE, HE NOTED, THAT LAST YEAR'S EXPORTS OF DOLS 750 MILLION COULD DOUBLE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS IF THERE IS STRONG FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COOPERATION. "LET'S HOPE," HE SAID, "WE DON'T BUGGER UP THE INDUSTRY." TO THIS STATEMENT OF HOPE, THE FEARFUL FISHERMEN OF ATLANTIC CANADA MUST SURELY ECHO A LOUD AMEN.
MOORE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HALIFA00108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780090-0643
Format: TEL
From: HALIFAX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780210/aaaaahwy.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cebacdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3425815
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADA'S ATLANTIC FISHERIES: FEARS FOR THE FUTURE BEGIN SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH IT WAS CERTAINLY NEEDED I
TAGS: EFIS, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cebacdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014